

was able to overthrow a tyrannical regime that had reigned in Iraq for 45 years and utterly vanquish its military, with very few casualties. Support units like the 109th were the backbone of this effort.

The 109th Engineering Battalion participated in a mobilization with few precedents in South Dakota history. Nearly 2,000 Guard and Reserve troops were called to active duty in our State, by far the largest mobilization since World War II. At the time the fighting began, units from more than 20 communities had been called up, from Elk Point in the south to Lemmon in the north, from Watertown in the east to Spearfish in the west. Indeed, our State's mobilization rate ranked among the highest of all the States on a per capita basis.

In addition to the service of the 109th, I want to acknowledge the sacrifices and dedication of the families who stayed home. They are the unsung heroes of any mobilization. They motivate and inspire those who are far from home, and they, too, deserve our gratitude.

Today, I join these families and the State of South Dakota in celebrating the courage, dedication, and success of the members of the 109th Engineering Battalion, and I honor their participation in this historic event in our Nation's history. Welcome home. Thanks to all of you for your hard work, your sacrifice, and your noble commitment to this country and its ideals.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Los Angeles, CA. On September 12, 2001, two Spanish-speaking women were harassed and beaten by another patient in a doctor's office. Believing the women to be of Middle Eastern descent, the attacker verbally and physically assaulted the women in retaliation for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the United States. As the attacker struck the women, she yelled "You foreigners caused all this trouble."

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

IN SUPPORT OF U.S.-CHILE AND U.S.-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to support the U.S.-Chile and U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreements, which are now before the Senate. These agreements are the first to be considered under the expedited Trade Promotion Authority, TPA, procedure that Congress passed last year. Ratification of these agreements will provide significant benefits to agricultural producers and the U.S. economy. Strong bipartisan votes will send an important message that the U.S. Congress is strongly committed to growing the U.S. economy and helping American farmers and workers succeed in an ever-growing competitive global marketplace.

Both the U.S.-Singapore and U.S.-Chile free trade agreements will level the playing field for U.S. products and farm goods. Specifically, both agreements will eliminate the use of subsidies on agricultural exports, a major step forward for U.S. agriculture in WTO negotiations. There is a clear link between a healthy agricultural sector and trade. More than 43,000 Nebraskans hold jobs related to agriculture exports. Nebraska ranks fourth nationally in exports of agricultural products—an estimated \$3.14 billion in 2002. In 2002, Nebraska farmers and ranchers saw increased international sales of corn, soybeans, and wheat, and depend on the ability to export their products to the rest of the world for continued growth.

The U.S.-Singapore free trade agreement will strengthen an important relationship and serve as our first free trade agreement with an Asian nation. Singapore is a critical ally in Southeast Asia in the global war on terrorism. Singapore is also an important economic ally. It is our 12th largest trading partner. This free trade agreement will provide expanded opportunities for trade and investment and will increase job opportunities here at home. It will benefit American firms in many sectors, including those in the banking/financial industry and in professional services. Under the agreement, 100 percent of U.S. goods and 92 percent of Singaporean goods will have duty-free status immediately. The free trade agreement further ensures that Singapore cannot increase its duties on any U.S. product.

The U.S.-Chile Free Trade agreement will be the first between the U.S. and a South American nation. Under this agreement, American farmers, workers, and businesses will benefit from improved and expanded access to the Chilean market. More than 75 percent of U.S. farm goods will enter Chile tariff-free within 4 years, with all tariffs being phased out within 12 years. This agreement will eliminate tariffs on corn and most distilled spirits in 2 years. It will immediately eliminate tariffs on pork and pork products, soybeans, and many other agricultural

products. Access for beef on both sides will be completely liberalized over 4 years. Overall, this agreement will immediately remove tariffs on more than 85 percent of U.S. exports. The U.S.-Chile agreement will provide momentum to the ongoing negotiations in the Free Trade of the Americas and global trade talks. Bilateral agreements, such as this agreement with Chile, are essential because they provide benefits immediately and help the U.S. keep pace with the 16 global competitors, including the EU and Canada, who already have preferential trade agreements with Chile.

Free trade provides the basis for economic growth and democratic governance in developing countries. Free trade promotes American values around the world. It underpins a global economic order that is essential to our own economic security. Agreements like those before us today will help the U.S. to reap the benefits of free trade and gain access to emerging markets, creating new jobs and higher incomes for Americans. Ninety-six percent of the world's consumers are outside of U.S. borders. Foreign market access is essential for the continued growth and viability of the U.S. economy. International trade is an essential component of growth and opportunity in our global economy. The U.S. must be a leader, not a follower, in the global marketplace.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreements.

THE BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS TAX INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I recently joined Senator HAGEL of Nebraska in introducing legislation that is important to the survival of farm families and rural America. Our bipartisan legislation, called the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Tax Incentive Act, provides significant capital gains tax breaks to encourage retiring farmers and ranchers to sell their farm property to others who will continue to use the property in the farming business. Identical legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

As many of our colleagues know, the economic well-being of many rural communities across the country is at a crossroad. Over the past several decades, jobs on family farms and in Main Street businesses in small towns have been disappearing from the Nation's Heartland. Rural communities are facing an out-migration crisis of epic proportions. Senator HAGEL and I have been working at the Federal level to adopt fiscal policies that will give rural America the tools and funding it needs to reverse the out-migration problem. One of the challenges for stabilizing and revitalizing our rural communities is to ensure that the Federal Government backs strong farm policies

that support this generation and the next generation of family farmers.

A strong farm economy is critical to the survival of many rural communities over the long term. But the number of family farmers, who are the backbone of the agricultural sector, has been steadily declining over the course of the past century. In the 1930s, North Dakota had over 85,000 farms. That number has dwindled to just 30,000 in 2002, the lowest number of farms in North Dakota's history.

More and more of our young people are leaving rural communities in pursuit of jobs elsewhere and the remaining farmers are growing older. A recent report prepared by the Center for Rural Affairs found that almost half of the Nation's farmers are age 55 or older. The already small number of farmers and ranchers under age 25 (about 1 percent of farmers and ranchers) has dropped significantly in recent years. If we don't act quickly to address the aging of the farm sector, the prospects for many farm communities appear bleak.

The Center's report found that one of the major impediments to individuals who want to start a farm or ranch is the cost of land and other farm property. The legislation that Senator HAGEL and I have introduced speaks to this issue by providing substantial capital gains tax incentives for farmers and ranchers who are retiring or forced to get out of farming to sell their farm operations to beginning farmers and ranchers or others who will continue to use the property in farming. Because of the extra benefit the retiring farmer would receive for selling to a first-time farmer, for example, he or she could accept a lower price from such a buyer and still come out ahead economically as compared to a sale that would otherwise take the land out of agricultural use.

Specifically, our legislation allows farmers and ranchers to exclude up to \$500,000 in capital gains that are derived from the sale of qualifying farm or ranch property over their lifetime. The benefit of the capital gains tax exclusion provided by this legislation is greater for the sale of such property to first-time farmers and ranchers or to others who continue to use such property for farming purposes. To encourage farm sales to beginning farmers, this legislation provides a 100-percent exclusion from gross income of the long-term capital gain from the sale of qualifying farm property to a first-time farmer who certifies that he or she will use the property for farm purposes for at least 10 years. Our bill also provides a 50-percent exclusion from gross income of the long-term capital gain from the sale of farm property to any other person who certifies that the property will be used for farm purposes for at least 10 years. Finally, this legislation provides a 25-percent exclusion from gross income of long-term capital gain from the sale of such property to any other person for any other use.

If anytime within 10 years after the sale, the property benefiting from the 100-percent or 50-percent capital gains exclusion is disposed of or ceases to be used as a farm for farming purposes, then a penalty shall be imposed as a proxy for recapturing the capital gains tax benefit. However, the penalty for disposition or cessation of the use of qualifying property as a farm for farming purposes may be waived by the Secretary of the Treasury in the case of hardship.

Senator HAGEL and I believe that if we are going to deal with the economic problems facing much of rural America that we must ensure that tax and other Federal policies are in place to encourage a new generation of young people to enter into farming and ranching. This legislation should help in this endeavor and we urge our colleagues to support our effort.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I regret that I missed this evening's vote in the Senate on the confirmation of Earl Leroy Yeakel III, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on his confirmation. Unfortunately, the airplane I was to travel on back to Washington, DC was grounded for some time due to mechanical problems, and this caused a delay in my return.

DEATH OF BOB HOPE

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, the death of Bob Hope is a great loss for all Americans. At 100 years old, Hope was truly a legend in his own time. His famous wit and generous spirit endeared him to generations of Americans.

For more than 50 years, Bob Hope headlined USO tours, performing for America's Armed Forces around the world in times of war and peace. While serving on board of directors of the World USO and as president of the USO, I was privileged to have worked with Bob Hope. His selfless commitment to entertaining the men and women of our Armed Forces was unmatched. In 1997, Congress voted to recognize Bob Hope as an honorary veteran. Hope is the only person to ever receive this honor.

For decades, Bob Hope brought American troops laughter and warmth around the globe. We are all grateful for his tireless service and spirited humor. Bob Hope will be remembered not only as a gifted comedian and patriot, but as a humanitarian who used his tremendous talents to lift the spirits of millions of men and women. There will be another like him.

GREENSPAN'S RECORD

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I want to share with my fellow colleagues an article written by the best selling au-

thor and investor Jim Rogers. Mr. Rogers has been dubbed the "Indiana Jones of investing" and has earned himself a reputation for being one of the world's leading economic minds.

In this article, Mr. Rogers does something that I have found rare when it comes to examining Chairman Greenspan's record. He actually looks at the Chairman's monetary stances throughout his tenure at the Federal Reserve and examines what kind of effect they had on the economy. In most cases, Mr. Rogers finds that Mr. Greenspan's policies were ill-timed or simply economically absurd. I urge my colleagues to read this article so that we may better understand the role the Federal Reserve and Chairman Greenspan specifically have played in our economic well-being.

I ask unanimous consent to have the article printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FOR WHOM THE CLOSING BELL TOLLS

At a recent symposium sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Alan Greenspan reflected on causes of the stock market bubble that grew at the end of the 20th century. He discussed how difficult it was to recognize when a bubble began and how anything he could have done as Federal Reserve chairman would have only made matters worse for the economy at the time.

"Bubbles," Greenspan said toward the end of his speech, "thus appear to primarily reflect exuberance on the part of investors in pricing financial assets . . . Bubbles appear to emerge when investors either overestimate the sustainable rise in profits or unrealistically lower the rate of discount they apply to expected profits and dividends." He said he did not know there was a bubble and could have done nothing even if he had figured out there was a mania. I wonder if he really believes that. Even my mother knows there was a bubble. Is he a charlatan or a foot? Perhaps both as we will see from his own earlier words and deeds.

I've got news for you, Alan: This stock market bubble was yours and could have been prevented. It didn't have to happen. Don't go blaming investors for so-called exuberance. Irrational or rational. The only one who has acted irrationally, it seems to me, is you. You could have prevented it in the first place and certainly could have stopped the bleeding a long time ago.

I know, I know. This is not the way people want to think about Alan Greenspan. The way people often talk about him, you'd think he was up for sainthood. Back in 1999, Time magazine nominated him to the "committee to save the world." Legendary journalist Bob Woodward wrote a flattering book about Greenspan called "Maestro." Senator Phil Gramm of Texas called him the greatest central banker of all time. Even the Queen of England recently added her voice, knighting Greenspan and saying that Sir Alan has brought "economic stability to the world." I guess she didn't notice that there have been at least five major financial crises in the past eight years with perhaps more on the horizon.

Could someone please give me the phone number of Alan Greenspan's public relations firm? Actually it was down in the board rooms of investment firms who used him to coin money, but even they have caught on by now.